

Recommendations for Revisions to the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula

**Submitted by the State Education Office
to the Committee on Education, Recreation and Libraries
of the Council of the District of Columbia**

September 30, 2001

The recommendations presented below are based on the findings of a two part study of the costs of delivering educational services to students in the District of Columbia Public Schools and public charter schools. The study based its calculations on an examination of common practice in school districts in the Washington metropolitan region, as well as selected school districts in other parts of the nation.

The following is a brief summary of the SEO's recommended revisions to the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula; the recommendations are presented in detail in the next section of this document. The SEO recommends that—

- the foundation level be increased to \$6,470 to conform with the outcomes of the cost analysis.
- where indicated by the analysis, small adjustments be made in the grade level weightings.
- a weighted foundation amount be added for students attending special education schools within the District of Columbia. This change is recommended to encourage the return of special education students from program placements outside the District of Columbia.
- since the foundation level is being adjusted upward, the special education add-on weights be adjusted downward. This is necessary to maintain continuity in the level of spending for special education. The adjustment in the special education add-on weights will not decrease the total amount of dollars available through the formula for special education.
- based on the results of the special education cost analysis, the add-on weightings for Level 1 and Level 2 be proportionally increased relative to the weightings for Level 3 and Level 4.

Recommended Revisions

1. It is recommended that the foundation level be increased to \$6,470.

The following draft statutory language is proposed to replace current language in Section 104 (DC Code § 31-2903) Foundation Level.

“The foundation level or cost of providing public education services is \$6,470 per student for FY 2003 and subsequent years. The foundation level may be revised in subsequent years in accordance with provisions for inflation, revenue availability, and periodic review and revision of the formula, pursuant to §§31-2909, 31-2910, 31-2911.”

- 2. It is recommended that adjustments be made to the per student weightings applied at certain grade levels. It is also recommended that a special weighting be created for students attending special education schools.**

The following draft statutory language is proposed to replace current language in Section 104 (DC Code § 31-2904).

“The student counts at certain grade levels and in certain programs shall be weighted to provide an amount per student differing from the basic foundation level in accordance with the following schedule:

Grade Levels	Weighting	Per Pupil Allocation in FY 2003
Pre-School Pre-Kindergarten	1.17	\$7,570
Grades 1-3	1.03	\$6,664
Grades 4-5	1.00	\$6,470
Ungraded ES	1.03	\$6,664
Grades 6-8 Ungraded MS/JHS	1.03	\$6,664
Grades 9-12 Ungraded SHS	1.17	\$7,570
Alternative	1.30	\$8,411
Special Education Schools	1.17	\$7,570
Adult	0.75	\$4,853

- 3. It is recommended that adjustments be made to the add-on weights for students enrolled in various levels of special education, programs for limited or non-English proficient students, summer school, and residential programs.**

The following draft statutory language is proposed to replace current language in Section 106 (DC Code § 31-2905).

“(c) The following supplemental allocations for services delivered as part of the regular day school program shall be calculated by applying weightings to the foundation level as follows:

Level/Program	Definitions	Add-on Weighting	Supplemental \$\$ Per Pupil FY 2003
Level 1 Special Education	Regular class; special education services less than 6 hours per school week	0.550	\$3,559
Level 2 Special Education	Resource room; special education services 7-15 hours/school week	0.850	\$5,500
Level 3 Special Education	Separate class; special education services more than 15 hours per school week	1.500	\$9,705
Level 4 Special Education	Separate DCPS or public charter school	2.700	\$17,469
LEP/NEP	Limited and non-English proficient students	0.400	\$2,588
Summer	An accelerated instructional program in the summer for students who do not meet literacy standards pursuant to promotion policies of the District of Columbia Public Schools and public charter schools	0.170	\$1,100

- (1) The following supplemental allocations for services delivered as part of an after hours residential program shall be calculated by applying weightings to the foundation level as follows:

Level/Program	Definition	Add-On Weighting	Supplemental \$\$ Per Pupil FY 2003
Level 1 Special Education	Additional funding to support the after-hours level 1 special education needs of students living in a D.C. Public School or public charter school that provides students with room and board in a residential setting	0.374	\$2,420
Level 2 Special Education	Additional funding to support the after hours level 2 special education needs of students living in a D.C. Public School or public charter school that provides students with room and board in a residential setting	1.360	\$8,799

Level/Program	Definition	Add-On Weighting	Supplemental \$\$ Per Pupil FY 2003
Level 3 Special Education	Additional funding to support the after-hours level 3 special education needs of students living in a D.C. Public School or public charter school that provides students with room and board in a residential setting	2.941	\$19,028
Level 4 Special Education	Additional funding to support the after-hours level 4 special education needs of students living in a D.C. Public School or public charter school that provides students with room and board in a residential setting	2.924	\$18,918
Level 5 Special Education	Residential 24 hour intensity in public charter school	9.400	\$60,818
LEP/NEP	Additional funding to support the after-hours special instructional needs of limited and non-English proficient students living in a D.C. Public School or public charter school that provides students with room and board in a residential setting	0.680	\$4,400
Residential	D.C. Public School or public charter school that provides students with room and board in a residential setting, in addition to their instructional program	1.700	\$10,999

Fiscal Impact. The attached spread sheet uses FY 2001 enrollment figures to estimate the component costs and the total cost of the recommended revisions in the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula. The full set of recommendations will result in an increase of approximately \$40 million in the total amount provided to the District of Columbia Public Schools and public charter schools through the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula. This estimate of the fiscal impact will be revised as soon as the FY 2002 fall enrollment figures are available.